PROJECT NUMBER : 1902
PROJECT TITLE : Cell/Tissue Culture Research
PROJECT LEADER : D. M. Teng
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PERIOD COVERED : December, 1990

I. TOBACCO MICROBIOLOGY

A. Objective: To develop methods and evaluate the microflora in tobacco materials.

B. Results:

1. 1989 Bright Mold Evaluation Study

The sampling and analyses of samples from the 1989 bright crop was completed. The microbial populations were evaluated from a total of 195 samples of bright tobacco. These results are being analyzed.

2. 1990 Bright Study

Sampling and microbial analyses (bacteria, mold,and yeast) were continuing from samples of the 1990 bright crop. To date, a total of 345 samples have been evaluated. There are no final results to report at this time.

3. Bactometer® Study

The data collection and statistical analyses have been completed for the comparison of plate-count numbers vs. Bactometer® counts. Based on the statistical analyses, it was determined that the Bactometer® was not a suitable alternative for the current plate-count procedure (1).

4. Burley/Bright 4°C Storage Study

Samples of burley and bright tobaccos were stored for 28 days at 4°C. The microbial populations were evaluated at time zero and after 1,2,3 and 4 weeks of storage. The final results showed no significant change in the microbial populations regardless of storage time (2,3). Therefore, burley and bright tobaccos can be stored up to 28 days at 4°C, if necessary, prior to microbial analyses.

C. Plans: (1) Continue data analyses and document final results, (2) continue sampling and microbial evaluations for the 1990 bright crop and conduct a similar study with the 1990 burley crop, (3) prepare a completion report/memo with the final results.

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D. References:

1. Jones, R. M. Comparison of Bacterial Count Methods. Memo to D. Chadick; 1990 December 6.

2. Chadick, D. Notebook No. 8825 p. 197.

3. Gaines, O. Notebook No. 8904, pp. 162-164, 172, and 175.

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